

## CLAIMS

1. A hot-rolled wire rod that has excellent wire drawability as it is hot-rolled and thus allows heat treatment prior to wire drawing to be omitted:

said hot-rolled wire rod being a hot-rolled wire rod 5.0 mm or more in diameter, containing in mass

C: 0.6 to 1.0%,

Si: 0.1 to 1.5%,

Mn: 0.3 to 1.0%,

P: 0.02% or less, and

S: 0.02% or less;

not less than 90% of said wire rod in area percentage being composed of a pearlite structure; and

the mechanical properties of said wire rod 4 m in length satisfying the following expressions (1) to (4),

(1)  $TS^*-30 \leq \text{Average value of tensile strength } (TS_{AV} \text{ in MPa}) \leq TS^*+30$ ,

where,  $TS^* = 400 \times \{[C] + ([Mn] + [Si])/5\} + 670$  and the elements in square brackets [ ] in the equality mean the contents of relevant elements in percentage,

(2) Standard deviation of tensile strength  $(TS\sigma) \leq 30$  MPa,

(3) Average value of reduction of area  $(RA_{AV}) > 35\%$ ,

(4) Standard deviation of reduction of area  $(RA\sigma) \leq 4\%$ .

2. A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of nodules in said pearlite structure is 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

3. A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further containing

Cr: 0.3% or less (excluding zero) and/or

Ni: 0.3% or less (excluding zero).

4. A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further containing at least one element selected from among the group of Nb, V, Ti, Hf and Zr by 0.1% or less (excluding zero) in total.

5. A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, wherein N is controlled to 0.01% or less.

6. A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, wherein Al and Mg are controlled to 0.05% or less and 0.01% or less, respectively.

7. A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further containing

B: 0.001 to 0.005%.